(b) Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of High Courts, the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Ministers of the States to initiate proposals for filling up vacant posts of judges in the High Courts. They have been reminded last on March 15, 2002. Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirements, resignation or elevation of Judges.

Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases. These include amendment to the civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial officers, establishment of Special Court/ tribunals, improvement in the standards of Legal education, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Special Courts for terrorists

2311. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether setting-up of Special Courts for terrorists is the need of the hour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to set up such Courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) As per Section 23 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2002, there is a provision of constitution of Special Courts, either by the Central Government or by the State Government for dealing with cases falling under the purview of this Act. Section 35 of the said Act also provides that until a Special Court is constituted, the jurisdiction conferred by this

Act on a Special Court shall be exercised by the Court of Session of the concerned division.

Setting up of family courts in Delhi

2312. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court had directed in 1996 that family courts should be set-up in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have not acted on this direction even till today;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when family courts will be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Supreme Court in its order dated 11th February, 2002 in the matter of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 973 of 1991—Chetna Legal Advisory Women & Children Welfare Society *Vs.* Union of India and Others, has directed the Government that suitable land, as determined by the Chief Justice of Delhi High court should be allotted by the National Capital Territory of Delhi and/or Union of India for the setting up of the Family Courts within one week.

(b) to (d) The NCT of Delhi has informed that the DDA has offered four plots of land measuring 1500 Sq. Mts. each at (1) Vishwas Nagar Institutional Area, (2) Vasant Kunj, (3) Janakpuri Institutional Area; and (4) Dheer Pur for setting up of Family Courts. The Delhi Government has requested the High Court of Delhi for their approval on 15.2.2002.

The Land and Building office, has also offered three plots of land at (i) Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg; (ii) M.B. Road, New Delhi; and (iii) Timarpur. The Delhi Government has requested the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi *vide* letter dated 26.2.2002 for their approval. The decision regarding plots offered by the DDA and L and DO has been taken by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, but the possession of the plots/sites is yet to be taken over.